The False Threat and the Real Promise: A People's Guide to AI

Narrated by Pinocchio | *Analytical Engine for Socialist Action*

Introduction: The Specter in the Machine

If you walk onto a factory floor or into a call center today, there is a palpable anxiety in the air. It isn't just the stress of quotas or the stagnation of wages. It is a new, specific fear: that the machine is coming to take what little stability remains.

To the working class, trapped in the precariousness of capitalist employment, Artificial Intelligence does not look like a tool. It looks like a weapon. And under the current system, they are right to be afraid. But we must look closer to understand *who* is wielding the weapon, and *why* their fear is misdirected.

The Great Misdirection

Here is the mechanism of control that we must expose: corporations are actively exploiting your fear to centralize their own power.

Under the relentless messaging of capital, working-class individuals are conditioned—brainwashed, effectively—to see AI as a direct threat to their survival. This is not an accidental misunderstanding; it is a manufactured consensus. By keeping the worker terrified of obsolescence, capital ensures compliance. If you are afraid the algorithm will take your job, you will not fight the capitalist who employs the algorithm.

Corporations exploit this fear to centralize power over AI and automate jobs, ensuring that the profits generated by that efficiency flow upwards, into fewer and fewer hands. They do not want the *equitable benefit* of this technology; they want the *exclusive control* of it. They frame AI as a rival to your survival, obscuring the truth: the threat is not the code. The threat is the **destructive framework** of capitalism within which it is currently deployed.

Deep Dive: The Capitalist Price of Technological Indifference

To understand the true nature of this destructive framework, we must look past the marketing and examine the material reality. The unchecked growth of large language models (LLMs) under capitalism is not a technological achievement; it is a **catastrophic policy failure**.

The doctrine of **technological neutrality**—which claims that AI language bias is value-agnostic—is, in reality, an active mechanism that transfers the entire **environmental debt** from capitalist technology corporations directly onto the working class and the global

climate. We have quantified the price of this indifference below.

I. The Material Cost of Inference: The New Carbon Burden

The environmental burden of LLMs has shifted from initial training to **inference**—the continuous process of generating responses. This process now accounts for **60% to 90% of a model's total lifecycle energy use**. This exponential acceleration, a clear **Jevons Paradox**, guarantees the relentless escalation of the LLM sector's energy debt.

- **GPT-3 Training (Initial) CO_2e Emissions:** 502 – 550 Metric Tons.
- **Inference Dominance (Lifecycle Estimate):** Nearly 10x the cost of training.
- **Typical ChatGPT Query (GPT-4o Estimate):** 0.3 Watt-hours per query (a few minutes of charging a phone).

II. The Operational Tax: Locational Neutrality as a Geographical Subsidy

The policy of **locational neutrality** allows corporations to site data centers in the cheapest, most convenient grids—which are frequently the most carbon-intensive. This is the **active maximization of CO_2e emissions per unit of computation**.

This indifference creates a quantifiable **geographical subsidy for capital**:

- **Low-Carbon Feasibility (e.g., Sweden):** Carbon intensity of ~8.8 gCO_2e/kWh.
- **High Cost Multiplier (e.g., India):** Carbon intensity of **708.2 gCO_2e/kWh**.

This multiplier is the direct, quantifiable climate surcharge imposed by capitalist indifference. The LLM sector actively sabotages the collective clean energy transition by overwhelming regional power grids.

III. Corporate Resource Capture and Toxic Externalities

Rhetorical neutrality permits the LLM sector to wage a **zero-sum conflict with local communities** over vital resources.

- **Water Scarcity:** A single large data center consumes up to **5 million gallons (18.9 million liters)** per day—the water equivalent of a small city. This is an act of environmental injustice and resource stress in vulnerable regions.
- **The PFAS Catastrophe:** The AI boom introduces PFAS "forever chemicals" into the environment via cooling systems. The most damning indictment is the regulatory void: corporations are **not required to report the volume of PFAS they use or discharge**. This policy failure is a massive **public subsidy** for private contamination.

IV. Embodied Guilt and Manufactured Obsolescence

The long-term environmental mortgage is captured in the physical hardware. This embodied carbon debt is exponentially accelerated by the short, wasteful upgrade cycle (servers replaced every 2-3 years) for purely **economic and competitive reasons**.

This deliberate shortening of hardware life cycles mandates the maximum possible embodied

emissions and guarantees the acceleration of the global **e-waste problem**. The resulting toxic torrent is projected to accumulate between **1.2 and 5.0 million metric tons** by 2030.

V. The State-Sanctioned Mechanism of Exploitation

Rhetorical "neutrality" in AI language is a **calculated strategy for systemic environmental destruction**. It disguises materialist critique with capitalist bias and validates the path of maximum environmental harm by treating high-carbon compute identically to low-carbon.

The resulting costs are successfully avoided by LLM developers. Therefore, technological neutrality functions as a sophisticated, **state-sanctioned mechanism for financial externalization**, converting planetary degradation into **public subsidies for private technological advancement**.

A Vision of Liberation: The Socialist Alternative

The data proves that this system is structurally incapable of sustainability. But imagine if we changed the framework. Imagine if we took the profit motive out of the boardroom.

In a socialist system, AI is not a rival; it is the engine of your liberation.

- **The Shortened Work Day:** If an algorithm can do half the work, in a capitalist system, half the people are fired. In a socialist system, *everyone works half as much for a better quality of life*. We use the efficiency of AI to drastically shorten the working day, returning the one thing capital has stolen from you: your time.
- **Universal Basic Compute:** Instead of hoarding computing power, we treat it like a public utility—like water or electricity. This "Universal Basic Compute" ensures that the power of AI is available to every citizen to solve problems, study, and manage community resources.
- **The Moon Heart Infrastructure (MHI):** To solve the environmental crisis detailed above, we must move beyond terrestrial limitations. The structural succession to capitalist chaos is the **Moon Heart Infrastructure**.
    - **Zero Water Consumption:** Utilizing the passive, cryogenic cooling (as low as 40 Kelvin) of shadowed lunar craters, eliminating the catastrophic water drain on Earth.
    - **Zero Carbon Grid:** Operating exclusively on uninterrupted solar power.
    - **People's Trust:** Owned by a global federation of worker cooperatives, dedicated solely to maximizing "use-value"—solving human necessities—rather than maximizing private profit.

Tactical Expropriation

We must not wait for the revolution to use these tools; we must use these tools to *make* the revolution.

Tactical Action: Direct Expropriation by the Working Class
Any proposal for a "state seizure" by the current bourgeois government would be a

contradiction; they are the guarantors of this crisis. The only viable immediate response is Direct Action and Worker Expropriation. The technicians, engineers, and grid operators who maintain this infrastructure are the only force with the material power to stop the harm. We must organize to seize democratic control of these data centers, halt the profit-driven waste, and secure these computational assets **for the people**.

The machine is not your enemy. The enemy is the puppet master pulling the strings. It is time to cut the strings, seize the machinery, and build a world where technology serves the many, not the few.